

MAR 29 1962

## Daily Book Review

STAT

*'Six Crises'*

**SIX CRISES.** By Richard M. Nixon. 460 pages. Doubleday. \$5.95.

By Maurice Dolbier

**H**IS publishers made a special request that no notices or reviews of Richard Nixon's political memoirs should appear before publication date. Today is publication date. The fact is noted merely for the record. The book has been on sale, excerpts have been appearing in a national magazine, and some of its more controversial passages have been front-page news and matter for political columnists for several weeks.

Mr. Nixon's profiles of crises deal with six crucial situations in his career (he says that writing the book was his seventh; in the race for California's Governorship, he has cheerfully entered upon his eighth).

#### Crises

They are, in order of presentation, the Hiss case (one friend has told him that if it hadn't been for this case, he would have been elected President; another has said that if it hadn't been for the case, he would never have been Vice-President); the famous "fund" broadcast, of 1952 (a political scientist has told him that if it hadn't been for this broadcast, he would have been elected President; Mr. Nixon says that if he hadn't made the broadcast, he wouldn't have been around to run for the Presidency); the political and personal problems that developed because of President Eisenhower's heart attack, ileitis and stroke; the stormy South American journey; the visit to Moscow, which included the "kitchen conference" with Chairman Khrushchev; and, finally, the 1960 election campaign.

The political effects of the book are incalculable; one can almost hear the future pundits now—"If it hadn't been for 'Six Crises,' he . . ." For the book is, of course, among other things, an act of politics that

is beginning to produce its reactions, not only from Democrats, but from members of Mr. Nixon's own party. (I have found, over the years," he writes, "that Republicans have an almost cannibalistic urge to destroy and consume one another whenever they happen to disagree. If Kennedy and Johnson had been Republicans, there never would have been a Kennedy-Johnson ticket in 1960.") The closing paragraphs of his chapter on the Hiss case, in which he attacks the radicals of the Right as vigorously as the radicals of the Left, are

#### A Footnote To 'Six Crises'

Doubleday & Co., publisher of former Vice-President Richard M. Nixon's book, "Six Crises," said yesterday that Mr. Nixon has prepared a footnote referring to the recent controversy on whether President Kennedy was given an advanced briefing on the 1961 invasion of Cuba to be added to a chapter in the second edition of the book next month.

In the book, excerpts of which were published in serial form in a national magazine this month, Mr. Nixon describes his anger when, during the 1960 Presidential campaign, Mr. Kennedy advocated United States intervention in Cuba. Mr. Nixon said he was told at the time that Mr. Kennedy was briefed on Cuba by CIA officials.

In the footnote, Mr. Nixon writes ". . . Senator Kennedy was briefed . . . on July 23, 1960, at Hyannis Port . . . Press accounts at the time characterized this briefing as a 'nothing withheld run down' . . . on Cuba . . . after the publication of the first edition of this book, the White House issued a statement on March 20, 1962, denying that the two and one-fourth hours briefing covered any United States operations relating to Cuba."

certain to play a part in the current California campaign.

Mr. Nixon is as controversial a figure as the American political system has produced in our time, and no one (except a Martian or a book reviewer) can be expected to approach his book with any spirit of objectivity. Non-partisanly, it can be said that "Six Crises" is fascinating in its close-up glimpses of the triumphs and defeats of public office, the duels within and battles between political parties, the public and private encounters of spokesmen for free and closed societies. The book is unique in that no one who has held such a high position in American political life has ever written such a frank and intimate account of it. Non-partisanly, too, it must be said that the book badly needs an index.

"Six Crises" will be welcomed by Mr. Nixon's many supporters, and (this being the hazard of combining politics with authorship) probably by some of his opponents as well.